sources stabilized and finally dropped towards the end of the experiment. Thus, it is more or less clear from the observations that the total release and accompanying contribution of nitrogen to the soil pool is decided mainly by the chemical composition and degradability of the added litter. The rubber leaves because of the leathery nature and chemical contents, decomposition must have taken place at a slow pace enabling gradual release of the nutrients to the soil particularly protecting nitrogen from leaching losses and ultimately rendering a sequestering effect on all nutrients. Thus on equivalent weight basis, the release of nitrogen will be faster from the cover crop residues compared to rubber leaves.

- A close scrutiny of the result from the field study clearly indicated higher microbial activity during the wet season than the dry season and this must obviously be due to conducive conditions existing in soil for microbial proliferation and active decomposition. In this connection, the microbial activities from February onwards were on the decline since these periods coincided with the summer months reiterating the fact that microbial activity associated with litter decomposition is limited by litter moisture.

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